

Evening Telegraph

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1864.

"HOW IS GOLD TO-DAY?"

BY GEORGE COOPER.
There was a time when if we met
A friend upon common themes—the war,
The cold, or else the heat;
And took no interest in our health:
The world was all away to us;
Now, no one asks us how we do,
But, "How is gold to-day?"

These words pervade the atmosphere,
At weddings, funerals, balls,
No matter where; upon your ear
The anxious question comes,
You kiss, and then she sweetly says:
"Oh! how is gold to-day?"

IF GOLD IS UP OR DOWN,
What good it does to know;
There is no little in my purse,
My friends are few,
And I have the endless cry,
And long to rose away;

To lands of peace where no one asks,

"Well, how is gold to-day?"

THE WHAT-IS-IT?

Mc, nor flesh, nor fowl,
Sins, nor sins, nor soul,
And his status true to find,
Is perplexing to the mind;
Yet to note we ought not fall
That the Rebels made him quail;

Chicken-hearted then he is;
Therefore him we may acribe
To the Galena-eous tribe.

[N.Y. Evening Post.]

THE GREATEST GUN IN THE WORLD.

Its First Thunder—Its Trial a Success—The Great Peacemaker of the Age, &c.

Fort Hamilton was the theatre of a very interesting and instructive scene yesterday. The trial of the great twenty-inch Rodman gun came off successfully. As the event was noticed to occur in the *Herald*, it was widely known, and consequently there were present at the trial a large number of citizens, as well as military and naval officers. An excursion steamer, with a good band on board, came down the bay and remained off the fort at the head of the wharf during the time the "test" was being made. The band played patriotic music, and the steamer displayed the national colors; and all the circumstances, including the scene enveloped of the day, made up a lively as well as interesting occasion.

Around the gun was a crowd of several hundred, eagerly engaged in minute examination of the gun and its important parts. Though this gun has already been described in the *Herald*, it will not be out of place here to say that it weighs nearly one hundred and seventeen thousand pounds. The carriage is proportionately large, and the gun itself is six feet in diameter, and its bore is twenty inches. The solid shot it throws is one thousand and eighty pounds in weight, and the regular charge of powder is one hundred pounds, which may be increased to one hundred and two hundred pounds, if greater or extraordinary moments require it to be impeded to its terrible miseries. It is calculated that there are few armored ships afloat whose sides this monster would not crush.

THE FIRST SHOT.

The gun was first loaded with the regular charge of powder (one hundred pounds), a cartridge, and fired amid the applause of the spectators. The report was not louder than a ten-pounder Parrott loaded with solid shot, nor was it near so shrill. Probably it did not create so great a concussion of the atmosphere, and would not be heard so far, except in the open air. To see the effect, it was noticed that it had only designed to roll itself back dismally about two feet. The air was sulphurous for a considerable distance around it.

THE SECOND SHOT.

This time the "big fellow" was loaded with fifty pounds of powder, and solid shot weighing the weight of the gun. The shot was driven six hundred or eight hundred yards, when it dropped in the bay, ricochetted two or three times, knocking up shashes of spray as large as a ship in full sail, and twice as high, and finally disappeared in the spray. After this discharge, it was found to roll itself back to move had up to show that it knew about to be fired. Every one was struck by the way and the boldness of the gun, and the redoubtless of the fort. The fuse hissed and flamed, but while all waited breathlessly for the flash it only turned out to be "a flash in the pan." The gun failed. An officer then went up, who must have had great interest in the gun, and snapped the gun, and off went the big gun.

The report was very little louder, than the one which immediately preceded it. There was no perceptible concussion of the ground, and indeed the gun was not even heard in the distance. The greatest gun known to exist had then been fired. The shot whirled through the air from the angle of twenty-five degrees at which the gun was elevated, and after descending to the water, it was seen to have passed through the hull of a small boat, and was raised dry-eyed, into the water about four miles off. The noise made by the collision of the ball and the air in the flight of the former was like the roar of a giant. It was something like the peculiar noise made by the explosion of the gun, and the snap of the gun, and off went the big gun.

It was the second of the cables. The range is to be taken from the gun, but for the proper elevation, and with one hundred and twenty-five pounds of powder, it is expected to be between five and six miles.

The following account of the method of testing the gun was written by J. G. Bartram, General Gunner of the Engineers:

Captain Rodman's method consists especially in casting the gun hollow, instead of solid, and by means of a current of water introduced into the core which forces the metal to contract, and thus harden the interior. To insure the cooling shell is exclusively internal, the exterior of the mould is kept heated during the whole process. The effect of this is easily seen to be that the interior metal (immediately above the hole) is hard and brittle, and the exterior portion solid, there being nothing to oppose their contraction. They therefore assume the solid state without causing those injurious strains in the metal caused by the solid process.

In reality, when the gun is cast, the metal is perfectly managed, and the shell about the bore is in a state of compression, and the exterior in a state of tension, exactly as theory shows it should be to get the maximum strength of the whole thickness of metal when subjected to external strain.

Not only this, but the metal about the bore first cooled and in contact with the cooling medium is, as it should be, the hardest and clearest. By the solid casting process it has been shown that the result as to both these conditions is the reverse, and the shell is always unbroken, and the bore is always untouched. We want the gun with a thin wall throughout our vast extent of territory. (Great applause.) And the Democratic party, to which he belongs, hold very different principles, and are not willing to let him go. Well, he did not care for the Union, but he professed devotion to the Union, and says in case there is no offer of recognition made him to remain in the service, he would do his duty to the Union, and he would do it cheerfully, for he is not afraid to fight for the Union.

He wants to be a soldier, and he is not afraid to fight for the Union, and he would do it cheerfully, for he is not afraid to fight for the Union.

The gun is the calibre of the gun made at Pittsburg, and is the same as that of the Pennsylvania, but I am afraid of that. (Laughter and applause.)

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